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FILED/ACCEPTED

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Federal Communications Commissioners:

October 27, 2008

Kevin Martin, Chairman
Debra Tate, Commissioner
Robert McDowell, Commissioner
Michael Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan Adelstein, Commissione

Subject: Inter-carrier Compensation (ICC) and Universal Service Fund (USF)

Dear Commissioners:

North Central Arkansas Regional Economic Development Corporation (NCARED) represents the eight county region of Baxter, Fulton, Izard, Marion, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, and Van Buren. Our mission is to promote and develop economic growth of new and existing industry and enhance the employment opportunities and the quality of life for citizens of the area it represents. We think the FCC's somewhat hasty proposal flies in the face of economic development both locally, regionally, and nationally.

We have a great deal of concern regarding the FCC's pending action on November 4th, 2008. We feel this proposed action would negatively impact our region, the state of Arkansas and the nation. It is the consensus of the NCARED executive board and its membership - who represent the interest of approximately one hundred seventy thousand citizens - that the impending crisis faced by a majority of the population if this action is approved will have a destabilizing effect on the telecommunication industry and therefore, a destabilizing effect on the largely rural population of Arkansas and the nation.

NCARED is vitally concerned about an FCC order that would directly impact the neediest citizens of this state and the nation. Service providers throughout the nation will be forced to increase user rates in order to continue critical services. We see this as a reform measure that has not been properly presented to the public nor subjected to congressional oversight.

It is NCARED's earnest request that the FCC not vote for this inter-carrier compensation order in its present form. The high risk outcomes of this unwarranted action to consumers are not justified.

With sincerest regards:


G.R. de Lorenzo, Executive Director
North Central Arkansas Regional Economic Development Corporation

cc: NCARED Board of Directors

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